



# National Council of Senior Citizens

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## Statement of the National Council of Senior Citizens on the Patients' Bill of Rights (S. 1890/H.R. 3605)

The National Council of Senior Citizens urges passage of the Patients' Bill of Rights by this Congress. The nation needs clear Federal standards to protect access to health care, to ensure quality and provide health plan accountability. The Bill of Rights will advance each of these goals.

NCSC's members have observed the deterioration of quality standards and the rights of participants in managed care plans over the past decade. Our members are thankful that the President has extended a bill of patients' rights to Medicare and Medicaid by an Executive Order. Passage of the Patients' Bill of Rights will provide the same range of standards to the health plans of their families and set quality baselines for health care in their communities.

NCSC calls for clear access to emergency care and a wider choice of providers. We want to see access to speciality care and coverage for health services provided in clinical trials. NCSC wants expanded access to prescription drugs and an end to discrimination in the delivery of services. Finally, NCSC calls for universal access to prompt grievance and appeals procedures that are geared to patients and not to institutions, plans or bottom lines.

The Patients' Bill of Rights provides these and other protections and standards to the users of managed care. We urge, again, its prompt passage.